

REMARKS

Applicants carefully considered the Office Action mailed on October 19 2004. Claims 1-28 are indicated as pending in the present patent application. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the originally filed claims 1-30 are should have been indicated as pending in the present patent application as Applicants have not made any amendments to date. Of the pending claims, claims 1-28 stand rejected. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 5, 8, 11, 12, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25-27 and 29 thereby rendering the rejections to these claims as moot. Additionally, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16, 20, 21, 24, 28 and 30 and added new claims 31-38. Thus, claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-17, 20-21, 24, 28, 30-38 are pending. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request further examination and reconsideration of the present patent application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-28 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Jerger et al. (US Patent No. 6,321,334), hereinafter Jerger. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Jerger does not teach or otherwise disclose each and every element of claims 1, 3-4, 6-7, 9-10, 13-17, 20-21, 24, 28, 30-38.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). “The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim.” *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913 , 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claims 1, 3 and 31-33

Independent claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Jerger. It is Applicants position that claim 1 as originally filed is not anticipated by Jerger. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have elected to further particularize the language of claim 1. Amended claim 1 recites a method for managing a user community. The method comprises defining a set of user attributes for users in the user community and identifying by a first administrator, a permission level for managing the user attributes where the permission level defines administrative operations that can or cannot be performed by a second administrator on a user attribute.

Thus, the permission level assigned by a first administrator is indicative of the types of operations that can or cannot be performed by a second administrator on a user attribute. The assigned permission levels provide the capability for an administrator to restrict what types of operations another administrator can perform on user information, so that an administrator is constrained in what he/she can do, thereby enabling different administrators to have different permissions when managing the same data.

In contrast, Jerger discloses a system and method for managing active content downloaded from a computer network. Further, Jerger discloses a system security policy that protects a user's computer from potentially harmful active content received from a server computer. The system security policy establishes multiple security zones wherein each security zone corresponds to a set of locations on a computer network. Further, each zone has a corresponding security configuration that specifies the actions to be taken *when a protected operation is requested by active content downloaded from that security zone.*

Applicants submit that at the very least Jerger does not teach or otherwise suggest that a set of *user attributes* for users in a user community are defined, and that a permission level for managing the user attributes are identified by a first administrator, wherein the permission level defines *administrative operations that can or cannot be performed by a second administrator on a user attribute.*

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Jerger does not anticipate claim 1. As claims 3 and 31-33 depend from claim 1, Applicants submit that these claims are similarly allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

In addition, even *if* it could be said that Jerger teaches user attributes as recited in claim 1 (with which Applicants do not agree), Applicants submit that Jerger does not teach that the user attributes are selected from the group consisting of employer name, employer job description, employer address and state of employment as recited in claim 32. Furthermore, Applicants submit that Jerger does not teach that the user attributes are selected from the group consisting of resources for which permission to access the resources has been granted, and type of equipment used, as recited in claim 33. Moreover, Applicants submit that Jerger does not teach that the first administrator defines restricted values that the second administrator can or cannot assign to the user attributes as recited in claim 3.

Claims 4, 6 and 34-35

Independent claim 4 was similarly rejected as being anticipated by Jerger. It is Applicants position that claim 4 as originally filed is not anticipated by Jerger. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have elected to further particularize the language of claim 4. Amended claim 4 recites a method for managing user information associated with a user community. The method comprises defining a set of user attributes from the user information for users in the user community and identifying by a first administrator, a permission level for the user attributes. The permission level defines operations that a second administrator can or cannot perform on a user attribute. The method finally comprises managing the user attributes according to each of the permission levels.

As with claim 1, Applicants submit that at the very least Jerger does not teach or otherwise suggest that a set of user attributes for users in a user community are defined, and that a permission level for managing the user attributes are identified by a first administrator, wherein the permission level defines administrative operations that can or cannot be performed *by a second administrator on a user attribute.*

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Jerger does not anticipate claim 4. As claims 6 and 34-35 depend from claim 4, Applicants submit that these claims are similarly allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 4.

Claims 7, 9, 36, 37 and 28, 30

Independent claims 7 and 28 were similarly rejected as being anticipated by Jerger. It is Applicants position that claims 7 and 28 as originally filed are not anticipated by Jerger. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have elected to further particularize the language of claims 7 and 28. Amended claim 7 recites a method for enabling administration of a user community, whereas claim 28 recites a computer-readable medium storing instructions for enabling administration of a user community. The associated method and computer readable medium based instructions comprise providing user information associated with the user community to a first administrator and prompting the first administrator to define a set of user attributes for users in the user community. The method and computer readable medium based instructions further comprise prompting the first administrator to identify a permission level for the user attributes, wherein the permission level defines operations that a second administrator can or cannot perform on a user attribute and using the identified permission levels to control administration of the user information.

As discussed above, Applicants submit that at the very least, Jerger does not teach or otherwise suggest that a set of user attributes for users in a user community are defined, and that a permission level for managing the user attributes are identified by a

first administrator, wherein the permission level defines administrative operations that can or cannot be performed *by a second administrator on a user attribute.*

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Jerger does not anticipate claims 7 and 28. As claims 9, 36, 37 and 30 depend from claims 7 and 28 respectively, Applicants submit that these claims are similarly allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 7 and 28.

Claims 10,13,14,15 and 21,24

Independent claims 10 and 21 were similarly rejected as being anticipated by Jerger. It is Applicants position that claims 10 and 21 as originally filed is not anticipated by Jerger. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have also elected to further particularize the language of claims 10 and 21. Amended claims 10 and 21 recite a user community administration tool for managing user information associated with a user community. The tool comprises a domain definition component that defines the user community into at least one administrative domain. The domain definition component comprises a user group specifying component that specifies at least one arbitrary group of users from the user community and a user attribute definition component that defines a set of permissible user attributes for the at least one arbitrary group of users. Further, the user attribute definition component comprises an attribute permission component, that specifies a permission level for each of the user attributes and wherein each permission level is identified by a first administrator and wherein the permission level defines operations that can or cannot be performed by a second administrator on a user attribute. The tool further comprises an information management component that manages the user information associated with the administrative domain in accordance with the permissible user attributes.

Applicants submit that at the very least Jerger does not teach or otherwise suggest a user attribute definition component that defines a set of permissible user attributes for a group of users in a user community, and an attribute permission component that specifies a permission level for managing the user attributes identified by a first administrator,

wherein the permission level defines administrative operations that can or cannot be performed *by a second administrator on a user attribute.*

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Jerger does not anticipate claims 10 and 21. As claims 13-15 and 24 depend from claims 10 and 21 respectively, Applicants submit that these claims are similarly allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 10 and 21.

Claims 16, 17, 20

Independent claim 16 was similarly rejected as being anticipated by Jerger. It is Applicants' position that claim 16 as originally filed is not anticipated by Jerger. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicants have elected to further particularize the language of claim 16. Amended claim 16 recites a system for managing user information associated with a user community. The system comprises a database directory containing a plurality of user information. The system further comprises a user community administration tool to manage the plurality of user information in the database directory. The user community administration tool comprises a domain definition component that defines the user community into at least one administrative domain. The domain definition component comprises a user group specifying component that specifies at least one arbitrary group of users from the user community and a user attribute definition component that defines a set of permissible user attributes for the at least one arbitrary group of users, wherein the user attribute definition component comprises an attribute permission component that enables a first administrator to specify a permission level for each of the user attributes, wherein the permission level defines operations that can or cannot be performed by a second administrator on a user attribute. The system also comprises an information management component that manages the user information associated with the administrative domain in accordance with the permissible user attributes and a first computing unit configured to serve the user community administration tool and the database directory.

As mentioned above, Applicants submit that at the very least, Jerger does not teach or otherwise suggest that a user attribute definition component that defines a set of permissible user attributes for a group of users in a user community, and an attribute permission component that specifies a permission level for managing the user attributes identified by a first administrator, wherein the permission level defines administrative operations that can or cannot be performed *by a second administrator on a user attribute.*

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants submit that Jerger does not anticipate claim 16. As claims 17 and 20 depend from claim 16, Applicants submit that these claims are similarly allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 16.

Claim 38

In addition, newly added independent claim 38 recites a method for enabling administration of information associated with a user community. The method comprises providing user information associated with the user community to a first administrator, wherein the user information comprises a set of user attributes for users in the user community. The method further comprises prompting the first administrator to identify a permission level for managing the user attributes, wherein the permission level defines administrative operations that a second administrator can or cannot perform on the user attribute and prompting the first administrator to define restricted values that can be assigned to the user attributes. The restricted values specify values that the second administrator can or cannot assign to the user attribute. The method further comprises using the identified permission levels and the restricted values to control administration of information associated with the user community.

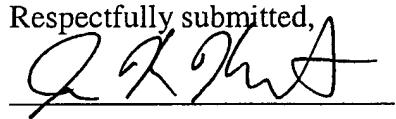
Applicants submit that at the very least Jerger does not teach or otherwise suggest that a set of user attributes for users in a user community are defined, and that a permission level for managing the user attributes are identified by a first administrator,

wherein the permission level defines administrative operations that can or cannot be performed *by a second administrator on a user attribute.*

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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